



Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

STRONG STORMS, FLOODING, HEADLINE TENNESSEE AGRICULTURE

NASHVILLE, May 11, 2011 – For the second consecutive year, abnormally heavy spring rains, storms, and flooding have greeted Tennessee wheat producers. However, the associated agricultural impact is largely unknown at this time. Overall, the winter wheat crop is rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition with the prospects of a better than average yielding crop. Tennessee's winter wheat production is projected to total 14.8 million bushels, up 55 percent from a year ago according to a recent survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office, around May 1. The state's average yield is expected to be 57.0 bushels per acre, up 4 bushels from a year earlier. Tennessee farmers seeded 360,000 acres last fall, up 38 percent from the previous year. Wheat producers expect to harvest 260,000 acres for grain, 80,000 more than a year ago. The remaining 100,000 acres were used as a cover crop, will be harvested for hay or silage, or will be abandoned due to flooding. By the week ending May 8, over 90 percent of the State's acreage had headed, a few days ahead of the normal pace.

United States: Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.42 billion bushels, down 4 percent from 2010. Based on May 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 44.5 bushels per acre, down 2.3 bushels from the previous year. Expected grain area totals 32.0 million acres, up 1 percent from last year. As of May 1, thirty-four percent of the United States winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition, 34 points below the same week in 2010, and heading had reached 33percent in the 18 major producing States, 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average.

Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., May 1, 2011 with Comparisons¹

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	150	450	54.0	52.0	8,100	23,400
Georgia	125	180	40.0	49.0	5,000	8,820
Kentucky	250	410	66.0	66.0	16,500	27,060
Mississippi	100	300	47.0	53.0	4,700	15,900
Missouri	280	720	45.0	52.0	12,600	37,440
North Carolina	380	630	37.0	57.0	14,060	35,910
TENNESSEE	180	260	53.0	57.0	9,540	14,820
Virginia	160	260	51.0	66.0	8,160	17,160
United States	31,749	32,039	46.8	44.5	1,485,236	1,424,357

¹ 2011 forecast, 2010 final.

STATE HAY SUPPLIES ADEQUATE COMING INTO NEW CROP YEAR

Tennessee: Hay stocks on Tennessee farms totaled 746,000 tons on May 1, up 10 percent from a year earlier. Currently, hay stocks are rated in mostly adequate supply. Disappearance of hay, which is hay fed, sold or wasted, from December 1, 2010 - May 1, 2011, totaled 2.24 million tons. This amount is about normal prior to harvest of the upcoming crop. However, some localized areas are short of hay.

United States: Hay stocks on farms totaled 22.2 million tons on May 1, up 6 percent from a year ago. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2010-May 1, 2011 totaled 79.9 million tons, compared with 86.3 million tons for the same period a year ago. Compared with last year, hay stocks increased across much of the Nation's midsection. In many cases, these increases are attributed to an increase in total hay production in 2010.